

BURLEY RANGER DISTRICT
USDA - FS - Sawtooth National Forest

To: Lynn Kunzler
Fax #: 801 359 3940
Date: 1/16/96
From: G. Struthers

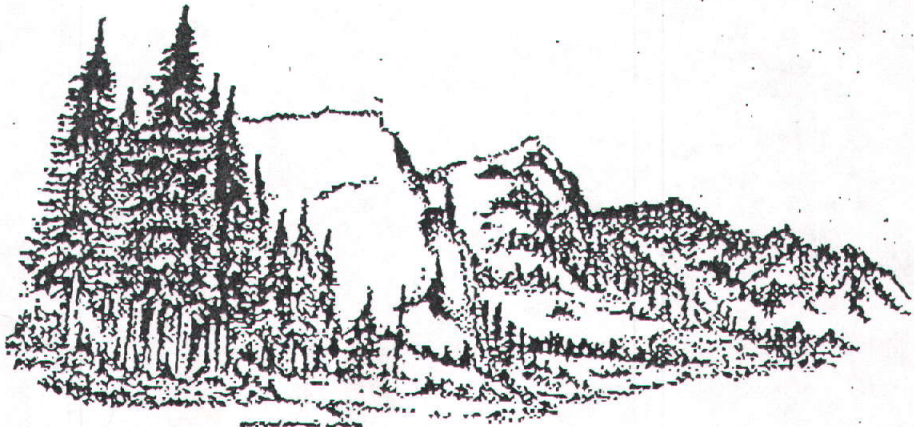
SUBJECT Brown's
MESSAGE Here is my answer to
the last (Dec 13) letter
Did clear it up greatly
from the first version

Page 1 of 3 pages

If you do not receive all of the pages, please call Gordon, at (208) 678-0430.

BURLEY RANGER DISTRICT
ROUTE # 3, 3650 OVERLAND AVE.
BURLEY, IDAHO 83318-3242

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United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Sawtooth
National
Forest

Burley Ranger District
Rt. 3, 3850 Overland Ave.
Burley, Id. 83318-3242
208-678-0430

File Code: 2810 Dove Ck

Date: January 16, 1996

William and Preston Bown
Utah Building Stone Supply
842 West 400 North
West Bountiful, Utah 84987

Dear Bill and Preston,

I now have the facilities map for Dove Creek you mention in your December 13 letter. It arrived on January 10. It will be useful in the preparation of the environmental assessment (EA) and processing the new Plan of Operation (POO).

My most optimistic timeline, if I receive the approved Cultural Resource report by the end of February, for the completion of a Dove Creek EA and approving a new POO is as follows:

- Due date for public scoping 1/31/96
- Start writing EA 2/12/96
- 1st draft EA 2/29/96
- Staff review of EA due 3/31/96
- 2nd draft for public review 4/15/96
- Final EA with Notice of Decision 5/15/96
- (if no there are NO adverse comments)
- Final EA-when there is adverse comments is 60 plus days after 5/15
- Approval of new POO will be between 5/15 and 8/1 (maybe even later)

This timeline will not stop your operations within presently opened quarry areas as described in the the 1990 POO signed by Larry Randall on August 13, 1990 and you on July 27, 1990. This 1990 POO is the approved plan that you have been working under, not some other proposed plan that was submitted later as your December 13 letter seems indicate to me. If you are missing the 1990 POO, I will send you a copy.

The map I received shows roads but no camps. I am unsure as to if you want a camp on the National Forest or not. If the old blue trailer camp is not used (it was not in 1995) the trailer should be removed and the site reclaimed.

I do not agree the the "Natural Method" reseeding will work. I have seen more weeds result from this than real quality revegetation. I will take you to Black Pine Mine and show some quality reclamation on sites every bit as harsh, with just as shallow soils as you have to work with at Dove Creek and Lynn Springs. I am also willing to meet with you and an outside expert on the ground this coming spring. I will bring my expert, also invite Lynn along, and we will all discuss the matter for as long as necessary.





The galvanized pipe you mention is not on the National Forest. Lynn will have to take care of that one.

Now to the Cultural Resource and biological surveys and reports issue. These two items are required to be done for any ground disturbing environmental analysis and resulting project on National Forest lands before the EA is approved. This is the Law, backed up by litigation in Federal court. If the proponent of a project, in your case a quarry, is not willing to accept the timeframe for the completion of the surveys and reports by agency specialists, the option of independently contracting approved surveys and reports is available. Black Pine Mine does this all of the time to insure that our scheduling does not disrupt their timeframes. If you had not proposed additional ground disturbing action with this last proposed POO, we would not be going through the EA process, thus the surveys and reports would not be needed right now. As it has happen with both Dove Creek and Lynn Springs, as the season went along, specialist time did come available and we we got some additional work done. At Lynn Springs the Cultural Resource surveys were done and the reports approved. At Dove Creek the surveys were completed, the reports are still being worked on as time becomes available. As you can tell from the the above, the specialists timeframes are not fixed in stone. In 1995 their priority was range allotment permits. This district had 12 allotment permits which required 6 separate EA's. This was an extremely heavy work load for the specialists this year. They all try their best to get to all requests. With good weather, like this year, and a few other good breaks, they get most projects done close to the requested date. When I ask for specialist input on a project, such as yours, the specialist will give me a timeframe that based on a worst case situation. I can send you a 1996 specialist schedule when I get it, if you really want it. But most of the time they beat that schedule.

In your December 13 letter you made great of your impression that an arrow head was found on the Dove Creek site and the the fellow was not then available to to do survey needed to get the POO approved. First I was the fellow that found one of the arrow heads. That was one of several found while I was helping the specialist do the survey. Due to bad weather at the north end of the Forest and better weather in the Raft River Mountains we were able to get the field work done earlier than scheduled. This was making efficient use of time to get extra work done.

Bill, I could have written this answer to your December 13 in the same tone as you wrote, but that would serve no purpose other then to increase both our frustration levels. I feel that my time is better spent getting on with real work, such as preparing for you the permitting documents for both Dove Creek and Lynn Springs. There are Laws, regulation and policy for mineral development on the National Forest. I didn't make them, you didn't either, but we both must comply with them.

Sincerely

Gordon Struthers
Minerals Management Specialist

